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largely than is usually admitted—upon the appeal made by his drawings to the lower side of human nature, and the skill displayed by him in depicting the visions of delirium should not and cannot be made an excuse for calling such a conception of the mission of art otherwise than by its true name—decay.

Nor would Beardsley have attained the reputation which his name now has had he been free from this decadent tendency. His drawing is good; it is remarkable indeed. But other draughtsmen no less good have gone their way and scarcely received one-half the encomiums that have been lavished upon Beardsley's work. It is therefore upon his imagination alone that Beardsley's fame depends. And that imagination was trailed in the mire to such an extent that none of its products is free from pollution.

R. C.



COLLECTIONS OF FAKES THE NEW FAD.

The genius of collectors has now entered a new field. Many art collectors up to now have purchased forged works of art, believing them to be genuine, and have been happy in their possession, but now the millionaire turns his attention in a new direction, and makes a collection of acknowledged forgeries, and this new hobby is held to be as interesting as it is exciting.

The art of the Vieux Neuf has long been carried on in certain parts of Italy and France. The town of Siena has a school of eminent forgers, men who work with such charm, ingenuity and grace that it is a pity they should desire to deceive, because if their work were sold as genuinely modern it would still be delightful.

Their art is carried to such perfection that a blacksmith is employed in order to make old and rusty nails, ancient hooks and worn hinges, and ever so many other appliances which complete the illusion in frames and cabinets. There are many curios in all our great museums, ivories, porcelain, majolica, etc., which are imitations. They may be of a certain age, but they are not of the date which they profess to be. But to no country do more go than to America. The largest factories for these treasures are to be found in Germany, Russia, Italy and France.

Not long ago some very valuable old family plate was taken to be cleaned to a man who was an undeniable expert and extremely honest. A few days afterward the owner received a note asking her to call, and he showed a curious thing.

The other equally had the hall mark, but it had been inserted in a modern cup and was neatly soldered into the base. It would have been impossible for an amateur to have told the difference. Indeed, the only difference lay in the fact that when the cup was genuine it was worth some 50 pounds, and when the soldered hall mark was removed it was not worth 15 pounds. The forgery must have been committed on some previous occasion when the plate was repaired and the modern substituted for the antique.

L.



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